

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) At least three-layered, coextruded, tubular, biaxially stretched seamless tubular casing comprising, viewed from the outside inwards,
 - a) an outer layer A which comprises as the main component a polyamide or a mixture of several polyamides,
 - b) optionally a layer B which has an oxygen-blocking character,
 - c) optionally a core layer C which comprises as the main component a polyamide or a mixture of several polyamides,
 - d) a layer D which has an adhesion-promoting action with respect to the adjacent layer C or B or A and the adjacent layer E and
 - e) an inner layer E which comprises as the main component a polyamide or a mixture of several polyamides,
 - f) optionally further layers and additives, wherein
 - g) at least one layer comprises natural fibres having a fibre length in the range of from 5 to 10,000 μm and/or a natural fibre mixture of various fibre types and/or fibre lengths.
2. (Original) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that the main components of layer A comprise either an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide.
3. (Original) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 2, characterized in that the partly aromatic polyamides used are substantially built up from m-xylylenediamine units and adipic acid units or from units of hexamethylenediamine, isophthalic acid and terephthalic acid.
4. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the natural fibres are cellulose fibres.

5. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the natural fibres are contained in at least one of the layers in an amount of from 0.1 to 70 wt.%, based on the total weight of the layer.
6. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer D comprises modified homo- and/or copolymers of α -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms, which contain grafted-on or copolymerized monomers from the group consisting of α,β -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids and/or monocarboxylic acids and/or derivatives thereof, or ~~optionally comprises a polymer as described in claim 2~~ an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide.
7. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer B comprises an approximately completely ~~hydrolysed~~ hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (EVOH) having an ethylene content of between 25 and 53 % by weight or modified homo- and/or copolymers of α -olefins having 2 to 8 C atoms, which contain grafted-on or copolymerized monomers from the group consisting of α,β -unsaturated dicarboxylic acids and/or monocarboxylic acids and/or derivatives thereof, an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide ~~a polymer as in claim 2 or claim 6.~~
8. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer C comprises ~~a polymer as in claim 2~~ an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide or optionally a polyolefin homo- or copolymer or a blend of these.
9. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer E comprises ~~a polymer as in claim 2~~ an aliphatic homopolyamide or an aliphatic copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homo- and copolyamide or a blend of aliphatic homopolyamide and a partly aromatic polyamide.

10. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the sum of all the layer thicknesses is 25 to 80 μm .
11. (Currently amended) Seamless tubular casing according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that this is heat-set.
12. Cancelled
13. Cancelled
14. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, characterized in that layer B comprises an approximately completely hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer (EVOH) having an ethylene content of between 29 and 38 % by weight and a thickness between 3 and 6 μm .
15. (New) A wrapping material for paste-like and liquid fillings which comprises the casing as claimed in claim 1.
16. (New) The wrapping material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the paste-like filling is sausage meat.
17. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein said layer D has a thickness between 1 and 6 μm .
18. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 1, wherein said layer E has a thickness less than 10 μm .
19. (New) Seamless tubular casing according to claim 14, wherein said layer D has a thickness between 1 and 6 μm . and said layer E has a thickness less than 10 μm and the sum of all the layer thicknesses is 25 to 80 μm .